

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01188 222117Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 SAB-02 PM-05 SS-15 /047 W  
-----120768 230523Z /14

R 222003Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5790  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 1188

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

1-PANAMA CITY--LA REPUBLICA FEBRUARY 21 AND ALL MORNING DAILIES  
FEBRUARY 22 FRONT-PAGED AN ANTI-TREATY DEMONSTRATION BY BALBOA HIGH  
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE CANALA ZONE. PHOTOS SHOW GROUPS OF SMILING  
STUDENTS WITH CAPTIONS INDICATING THAT STUDENTS WERE DEMONSTRATING  
AGAINST THE TREATIES. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TABLOID CRITICA RAN THE  
BANNER HEAD: "ZONIANS WANT ANOTHER 9TH OF JANUARY." GIST OF CRITICA  
COVERAGE IS THAT PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE PROVOKED BY MISGUIDED  
STUDENTS AND AGITATORS IN CANAL ZONE INTO A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION  
LIKE  
THE 1964 RIOTS. IN ADDITION TO COMPOSITE PHOTO OF STUDENTS GATHERED  
AROUND THE PANCANAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED  
MATUTINO CARRIES A LARGE PHOTO OF A LONE BLOND BALBOA STUDENT  
DISPLAYING  
THE FOLLOWING SIGN SCRAWLED ON HER NOTEBOOK: "GENERAL, I'M WITH YOU\*"  
("GENERAL, ESTOY CONTIGO\*").

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2-CRITICA FRONT-PAGED AND ALL MORNING RADIO TALK SHOWS READ  
AND COMMENTED ON AN EFE STORY BY MIGUEL LARRAYA ON THE SENATE  
INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE STATEMENT THAT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST GENERAL  
TORRIJOS WOULD NOT STAND UP IN COURT. CRITICA CARRIES THE SPREAD  
HEAD BOTTOM PAGE ONE: "OMAR FREE OF ALL SUSPICION". MATUTINO  
CARRIES A SIMILAR STORY FROM A RADIO SOURCE.

3-SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA DEVOTES ITS LEAD EDIT  
FEBRUARY 22 TO "THE TREATIES AND THE AMERICAN TAX-PAYER". LA  
ESTRELLA PLEADS IGNORANCE AS TO CANAL INCOME OR THE COMPENSATION  
PANAMA CAN EXPECT UNDER THE NEW TREATY, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT  
SYMPATHIZE WITH THE U.S. TAXPAYER'S ALLEGED RELUCTANCE TO CONTRIBUTE  
MORE. LA ESTRELLA CONCLUDES: "BUT KNOWING...THE ASTRONOMICAL  
FIGURES OF THE U.S. BUDGET, WITH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS  
IN INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, THE MERE IDEA THAT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER  
COULD RESENT THAT PANAMA MIGHT RECEIVE A FEW DOLLARS MORE EACH YEAR  
THAN THE MISERABLE SUM IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING, MAKES ONE SMILE FOR  
ITS SILLINESS."ITEM  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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